Import of coconut oil and Rubber

180. SHRI M. A. BABY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering any proposal to import coconut oil and rubber during the current or coming financial year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the possible impact of the action on the prices of the items produced in the domestic market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) At present there is no proposal to import coconut oil during 1991-92. Import of rubber for each year is decided on the basis of the expected demand-supply gap for the year and also keeping in view the buffer stocks available. The projections of the demand-supply gap and the stocks of rubber available in the country are reviewed from time to time to take suitable decisions at the appropriate time. Since import of rubber is made to meet the demand-supply gap, such import, if any, is not expected to have adverse impact on the prices of rubber in the domestic market.

Indo-Taiwanese Joint Ventures

181. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have considered the possibility of Taiwan serving as base for Indo-Taiwanese joint ventures manufacturing products for export to China and other countries ;

(b) whether a Taiwanese delegation visited India for negotiating on this a possibility ; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED : (a) to (c) No, Sir; at Government level, no such proposal has been under consideration. However, a 13-member non-official Taiwanese Trade Delegation visited India during June, 17—25, 1991 and held discussions with ASOCHAM and PHD Chambers of Commerce and Industry on the possibilities of promoting bilateral trade, investment and setting up joint ventures etc.

Pending Projects of Maharashtra concerning Environment

182. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the projects submitted by Maharashtra Government which are pending with the Central Government from environmental angle; and

(b) the time since when these are pending and by when they are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SHRI KAMAL ATH): (a) One project namely, the Construction of New and All Weather Jetty at Elephanta Island.

(b) It is pending since February, 1991. The Project would be apprised after receipt of additional information which has been asked for and is awaited.

Concessions To Tea Industry

183. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tea Industry has approached Government for certain concessions to prevent a drop in tea exports; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the concessions asked for by the industry and what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Government received representations/suggestions from tea industry and trade from time to time

for alround development of the tea industry and trade. Such suggestions are considered on merits in consultation with the concerned agencies and decisions taken. The exporters of tea are already enjoying some of the concessions such as (1) loan assistance in foreign exchange for brand promotion; (2) excise duty exemption on tea bags; (3) rebate or excise duty at the rate of 50 ps/150 ps per kg. on export of bulk tea; (4) full rebate of additional excise duty on packet tea exports, etc.

Import of Cashew from India by Japan

184. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item entitled "India offers quality cashews for Japanese Import" in the daily *Business & Political Observer*, New Delhi, dated 28 June, 1991; indicating that in response to the request from the Chairman of the Cashew Export Promotion Council of India to promote import of roasted and salted cashews in consumer packs to the six member 'Cashew nut Survey delegation', the delegation has suggested the need for stable and competitive prices to promote consumption of cashew kernels;

(b) whether in view of significant potential for promotion of India cashews as snack/health food in Japan, Government plan to aid Indian cashew exports through development of an international price stabilization scheme/financing of market promotion activities in Japan; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The suggestion of the Japanese delegation was that stable and competitive prices, as in the case of almost from USA, would facilitate exports of plain cashew kernels to Japan. Hence a reserve pool of cashew kernels should be maintained on the pattern of almond growers of the USA. However, while USA is the main supplier of almonds in the world market, India is only one of the principal suppliers of cashew in the international market, while the kernel prices are largely influenced by America, the largest market for cashew. However, the recent exchange rate adjustments and the EXIM scrip scheme are likely to have a beneficial impact in promoting exports of cashew to the world market including Japan. Government has, from time to time, financed participation in trade fairs for promotion of cashew exports to Japan.

Action against Principal of Nehru Homoeopathic Medical College

185. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an enquiry against Principal of Nehru Homoeopathic Medical College and Hospital, Defence Colony, New Delhi for indulging in private practice has been conducted; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and action taken if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI): (a) and (b) In 1987 a complaint was received by the Delhi Administration against Dr. V. K. Gupta, principal, Nehru Homoeopathic Medical College, New Delhi alleging that he was doing private practice. An enquiry was conducted on the above allegation by the Delhi Administration. Action will be taken by the Delhi Administration on the enquiry report as per rules.

186. [*Transferred to 25th July, 1991*]

Pollution by A.C.C. Factory at Chandrapur in Maharashtra

187. SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the A.C.C. cement plant at Chandrapur in Maharashtra has polluted the land surrounding the factory;